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Executed with neatness and despatch.

Mr. Van Buren on Texas.

[CONCLUDED.]

But this is a begetting, and very ancient foible of the mother country, as well as of her descendants, in their diplomatic intercourse. Every one conversant with the subject of Spanish relations, knows that, at least from the time of Don Luis d'Onis to the present day, this government has been frequently—not to say continually—subjected to this species of diplomatic dogmatism. Partly in consequence of the genius of their language; partly from their peculiar temperament; much from habit, but more from a radical defect of judgment—they continue the use of language in their state papers, which better tempered, if not wiser diplomatists have almost everywhere laid aside as worse than useless. But at no time has our government suffered its action upon great national questions to be influenced by such petulance. From the time of the modest, yet firm Madison, to the late Mr. Upshur, (whose melancholy fate is so justly and generally lamented,) has every Secretary of State acting under the direction of the executive, deemed it sufficient to place the government and minister employing it in the wrong, by showing its injustice as well as its frailty. We have then heretofore, as I hope we shall now, decided to act in the matter under consideration in a manner which was deemed due to justice and to our own character, without being in any degree influenced by such unavailing meannesses. It is foreign to my habit, and repugnant to my feelings, to say anything that should offend the pride of any nation, if the declarations of individuals could possibly have that effect, being sincerely desirous that the United States should cultivate friendly relations with all. But with a population not equal to half that of the United States, and laboring under many serious disadvantages, from which we are comparatively free, Mexico could not, with propriety, be offended by the assumption that this government may act as it would have done had no such menace been made, without the slightest danger of being regarded by the rest of the world, as having been intimidated by threats of war from that republic. So at least I should act, if the direction of public affairs were in my hands. The question then recurs, if, as sensible men, we cannot avoid the conclusion that the immediate annexation of Texas would in all human probability, draw after it a war with Mexico, can it be expedient to attempt it? Of the consequences of such a war, the character it might be made to assume, the entanglements with other nations which the position of a belligerent almost unavoidably draws after it, and the undoubted injuries which might be inflicted upon each, notwithstanding the great disparity of their respective forces, I will not say a word. God forbid that an American citizen should ever count the cost of any appeal to what is appropriately denominated the last resort of nations, whenever that resort becomes necessary either for the safety or to vindicate the honor of his country. There is, I trust, not one so base as not to regard, himself, and all he has to be forever and at all times subject to such a requisition. But would a war with Mexico, brought on under such circumstances, be a contest of that character? Could we hope to stand perfectly justified in the eyes of mankind for entering into it; more especially if its commencement is to be predicted by the appropriation to our own uses of the territory, the sovereignty of which is in dispute between two nations, one of which we are to join in the struggle? This, sir, is a matter of the very gravest import—one in respect to which no American statesman or citizen can possibly be indifferent. We have a character among the nations of the earth to maintain. All our public functionaries, as well as those who advocate this measure as those who oppose it, however much they may differ as to its effects, will, I am sure, be equally solicitous for the performance of this first of duties. It has hitherto been our pride and our boast, that whilst the lust of power, with fraud and violence in its train, has led other and differently constituted governments to aggression and conquest, our movements in these respects have always been regulated by reason and justice. A disposition to detract from our pretensions in this respect, will, in the nature of things, be always prevalent elsewhere; and I have at this very moment, and from special causes, assumed, in some quarters, the most rabid character. Should not every one, then, who sincerely loves his country—who venerates its time honored and glorious institutions—who dwells with pride and delight on associations connected with our rise, progress, and present condition—on the steady state, in which we have advanced to our present eminence, in despite of the hostility, and in contempt of the revilings of the enemies of freedom in all parts of the globe—consider, and that deeply, whether we would not, by the immediate annexation of Texas, place a weapon in the hands of those who now look upon us and our institutions with distrustful and envious eyes, that would do us more real, lasting injury as a nation, than the acquisition of such a territory, valuable as it undoubtedly is, could possibly repair? It is said, and truly said, that this war between Texas and Mexico has already been of long duration. We are and must continue to be more or less annoyed by its prosecution, and have undoubtedly, as has been remarked, an interest in seeing it terminated. But can we appeal to any principle in the law of nations, to which we practice a scrupulous adherence, that would, under present circumstances, justify us in interfering for its suppression in a manner that would unavoidably make us a party to its further prosecution? Can this position be made sufficiently clear to justify us in committing the peace and honor of the country to its support?

In regard to the performance by us of that duty, so difficult for any government to perform—the observance of an honest neutrality between nations at war—we can now look through our whole career, since our first admission into the family of nations, not only without a blush, but with feelings of honest pride and satisfaction. The war was opened by President Washington himself, under circumstances of the most difficult character, and at no less a hazard than that of exposing ourselves to plausible, yet unjust, imputations of infidelity to treaty stipulations. The path he trod with such unflinching steps, and which led to such beneficial results, has hitherto been pursued with unvarying fidelity by every one of his successors of whom it becomes me to speak.

If our sympathies could induce a departure from a policy which has so much in its commencement to consecrate it, and such advantages to recommend its continuance, they would doubtless draw us to the side of Texas. That the happiness of her people would be promoted by the maintenance of her independence, I have no doubt. Few, if any, efforts for the extension of the blessings of free government in any part of the world have been made since the establishment of our own independence, that have failed to excite our interest and sincere wishes for their success. But they have never been permitted to withdraw us from the faithful performance of our duty as a neutral nation. They were excited, and deeply too, at the commencement of the French revolution; they were revived in the struggle of the South American states for the establishment of their independence; they have been put to their severest trial in this contest between Texas and Mexico. Yet, in that whole period of time, amidst the convulsions of empires, and the lawlessness of power by which many of its possessors have been distinguished, it has been a cardinal point in the administration of the affairs of this republic to adhere with the strictest fidelity to the rule which was laid down by Washington, enforced by Jefferson, and respected, with unabated sincerity, by their successors.

There is another circumstance which is well calculated to mislead us upon this subject. Many if not most, of the persons to be affected by the decision of this question, were once citizens of the United States, and have still their relatives and friends amongst us. I am not unaware of the hazard to which I expose my standing with the latter in speaking thus unreservedly upon a point so well calculated to excite deep feelings. This is perhaps more particularly applicable to that portion of my fellow-citizens, of whom it was aptly and appropriately said by one of their own number, that "they are the children of the sun, and partake of its warmth." Yet whether we stand or fall in the estimation of our countrymen, it is always true wisdom, as well as true morality, to hold fast to the truth. It is, moreover, a consolation to know, that if to nourish enthusiasm is one of the effects of a genial climate, it at the same time seldom fails to give birth to a chivalrous spirit, which will not permit itself to be outdone in the extent or sincerity of its sacrifices at the shrine of patriotism. To preserve our national escutcheon untarnished, has, consequently, if reliance can be placed upon our public archives, been an object of unceasing solicitude with southern statesmen.

Nothing is either more true or more extensively known, than that Texas was wrested from Mexico, and her independence established through the instrumentality of citizens of the United States. Equally true is it that this was done not only against the wishes, but in direct contravention of the best efforts of our government to prevent our citizens from engaging in the enterprise. Efforts have, nevertheless, not been wanting on the part of those who are not over anxious for the credit of republican governments, to misrepresent the views of others in this respect—to cause it to be believed that our efforts to prevent unlawful participation by our citizens in that struggle were insincere; that we coveted this portion of the territory of Mexico; and having failed to obtain it by fair purchase, or by negotiation, we saw in this movement a preliminary step, which would, in the end, be equally subservient to our views upon Texas. No one can have had better opportunities of knowing how unfounded these injurious imputations were than myself. As early as when President Houston first went to Texas, I believe in 1830, I was consulted by Gen. Jackson upon the subject of a private letter addressed by him to the honorable Mr. Fulton, now Senator of the United States then Secretary of the Territory of Arkansas, requesting him to cause the movements of General Houston to be watched, and to apprise the President of the first indication on his part of an intention to violate the laws of the United States by a armed incursion into Mexico. From that period to the end of General Jackson's term of office, I am as well satisfied as I can be of any fact that he was sincerely desirous to perform his whole duty as chief magistrate of the country, and to prevent, in this respect, the slightest violation

of the laws, with the execution of which he was charged. He no doubt sincerely believed that the incorporation of Texas into the federal Union would be alike disadvantageous to her, to Mexico, and to the United States; and was ever ready to adopt all proper measures for the accomplishment of that object. But they knew very little of General Jackson's true character, who can for a moment permit themselves to believe him capable of doing, countenancing, or advising, a single act which he believed, or had even reason to apprehend, would violate the plighted faith of his country, or infringe upon the duty which it owes to the great family of nations. To prevent our people from going to Texas, and embarking in the war, was an impossibility which neither he nor any other chief magistrate could have accomplished. If they went there without military organization, or armaments, and chose to place themselves beyond the protection of this government, we had no right to control their actions; nor do other governments exercise any such right in similar cases. For the suppression of military enterprises, organized and armed here against a nation with which we are at peace, the provisions of our laws are ample. But of the difficulties of enforcing them with a frontier and seaboard like those which open our communication with Texas, no sensible and well informed mind can be ignorant.

For the voluntary action of our government in regard to the subject of annexation, we can have no such explanation to give. The acquisition of so valuable a territory by means which are of questionable propriety, would be a departure from those just principles upon which this government has ever acted, and which have excited the admiration and secured the respect of the dispassionate and enlightened friends of freedom throughout the world. But I am very sure that we shall all, in the end, so act upon this subject as to put it out of the power of the natural enemies of republican institutions to make any plausible charge of infidelity to our avowed principles in respect to it. No one was more deeply sensible of the necessity of the greatest prudence in this particular, or more anxious to secure its observance, than Gen. Jackson. As late as December, 1836—only a few months before the recognition—he thus expresses himself, in a special message to the Senate: "But there are circumstances in the relations of the two countries which require us to act, on this occasion, with even more than our wonted caution. Texas was once claimed as a part of our property; and there are those among our citizens who, always reluctant to abandon that claim, cannot but regard with solicitude the prospect of the reunion of the territory to this country; a large portion of its civilized inhabitants are emigrants from the United States, speak the same language with ourselves, cherish the same principles, political and religious, and are bound to many of our citizens by ties of friendship and kindred blood; and, more than all, it is known that the people of that country have instituted the same form of government with our own, and have, since the close of your last session, openly resolved on the acknowledgment by us of their independence, to seek admission into the Union as one of the federal States. This last circumstance is a matter of peculiar delicacy, and forces upon us considerations of the gravest character. The title of Texas to the territory she claims is identified with her independence. She asks us to acknowledge that title to the territory, with an avowed design to treat immediately of its transfer to the United States. It becomes us to beware of a too early movement, as it might subject us, however unjustly, to the imputation of seeking to establish the claims of our neighbors to a territory, with a view to its subsequent acquisition by ourselves."

It has been urged, from a quarter entitled to great respect, and reasoned, too, with no inconsiderable degree of cogency, that the acquisition of Texas now, in the mode proposed, would be liable to no greater objection than the accomplishment of the same object would have been either in 1827 or 1829, when it was attempted by two successive administrations to purchase it from Mexico. If I were to go into a discussion of this question, and the facts necessarily connected with it, I should be writing a book instead of a letter; nor is it necessary that I should. I will therefore content myself with saying, that with every disposition to look at the subject in all its bearings with an impartial eye, I have not been able to see the analogy which is claimed to exist between the two cases. But if it were admitted that the able men who were, at those respective periods, at the head of the government, under strong convictions of the importance of the acquisition of Texas to the United States, so far precipitated their measures for the accomplishment of that object, as to have endangered the good faith and pacific relations of the United States, (which I do not admit,) we could still only felicitate ourselves on their failure, but could not thereby justify the present movement, if it is not right in itself and capable of justification on other grounds. I by no means contend that a formal recognition of the independence of Texas by Mexico is necessary to justify us in assenting to her annexation to the United States. Time and circumstances may work such a change in the relation between those two countries, as to render an act of that character, on the part of Mexico, unnecessary and unimportant. What I mean to say, is that from all the information I have been able to acquire upon the subject, no change has yet taken place in those relations that would make the objection, which I have here detailed, inapplicable.

It is said, also, that if Texas is not acquired now the opportunity will be forever lost—that some of the rumors of the day have gone so far as to say that the Texan minister is already instigating, in case of failure here, to proceed forthwith to Europe, with full authority for the accomplishment of that object. We must not forget, that besides great public consideration, there are extensive private interests involved in this matter: and we may therefore well be distrustful of those thousand rumors which are from day to day put afloat upon this subject. What a comparatively few individuals, acting under the influence of personal interest, may not desire to have done, I will not undertake to say or to conjecture. But that the people of Texas—so many of whom carry in their veins the blood of our revolutionary ancestors—thousands of whom are thoroughly imbued with democratic principles—who achieved by their own gallantry that independence which we were the first to acknowledge—who have established and subsequently maintained institutions similar to our own; that such a people and such a government will ever be found capable of sending a minister to the crowned heads of Europe, to barter away their youth and enterprising republic, and all that they have purchased with their blood, to the highest bidder, is what I cannot believe; in the possibility of "so apostate and unnatural connection" I can have no faith.

It is also apprehended by many, that the British colony or dependency, I find it difficult to credit the existence of such infatuation on the part of any European Power: I cannot bring myself to believe that European government which has not already made up its mind to provoke a war with this country, will ever attempt to colonize Texas either in form or in substance. If there be any such power, the considerations to which I have adverted, would soon lose most of their importance: for the opportunities would not then be slow in presenting themselves for the conquest of whatever territory might, in that event, be deemed necessary to our security, in legitimate self-defence. Commercial favors Texas has to the same extent as other independent power the right to dispose of as she thinks proper; only subject to the penalties which are certain, sooner or later, to follow in the wake of national injustice. But European colonization of Texas is another and a very different matter—a matter in respect to the ultimate consequences of which no European nation can possibly deceive either herself or us. I have no access to the sources of true information in respect to the degree of credit which may be due to these rumors: but our government ought, without doubt, to exercise a most jealous vigilance against the extension of British influence, or dominion of any kind, or from any quarter, either in Texas, or in any of the portions of the continent bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. If the time ever comes when the question resolves itself into whether Texas shall become a British dependency or colony, or a constitutional portion of this Union the great principle of self-defence, applicable as well to nations as to individuals, would without doubt, produce as great a unanimity amongst us in favor of the latter alternative, as can ever be expected on any great question of foreign or domestic policy.

Having now replied, in the fullest and frankest manner, to both the questions which you have propounded to me, I might here close this letter; but being sincerely anxious to put you, and others occupying the same position in possession of my views and opinions upon the whole subject as far as they can with propriety be now formed and expressed, I will go a few steps farther.

Occasions do sometimes present themselves in the administration of public affairs, when the decision of great questions can be safely anticipated by those whose subsequent duty it may become to pass upon them; but to justify such a course, those questions must be such as are unavoidably dependent upon circumstances and considerations of fixed and settled character. I have not been able to regard this as being, in all its aspects, a case of that description. It is a matter affecting our foreign relations, in respect to which every enlightened nation makes it a rule to avoid, as far as practicable, public announcements of its proceedings and intentions beyond what is deemed necessary either to justify its past course, or to make others sensible of its determination to resist aggression, whether present or prospective. As the action of the executive upon all questions that affect our relations with other countries, must be more or less influenced by their conduct towards us, it is in general, desirable that his future course should not be embarrassed by assurances given at a period when no safe opinion could be formed of what that conduct would be. In respect even to motives of a domestic character, it could scarcely be deemed consistent with that prudence and calm discretion which, in public as well as private affairs, is of such inestimable value, to bind ourselves in advance in respect to the particular line of conduct we will hereafter adopt in a case of such magnitude as the present. When the period of definitive action shall have arrived, the considerations now taken into view may have lost the weight they at present possess in the estimation of the public; and others, now regarded as of any value, may, in the mean time, arise to effect materially, if not to change, the whole aspect of the subject. The present condition of the relations between Mexico and Texas may soon be so far changed, as to weaken, and perhaps to obviate entirely the objections against the immediate annexation of the latter to the United States, which I have here set forth and to place the question on different grounds. Should such a state of things arise, and I be found in charge of the responsible duties of President, you may be assured that I would meet the question, if then presented to me, with a sincere desire to promote the result which I believed to be calculated to advance the permanent welfare of the whole country. In the dis-

charge of this, the common duty of all our public functionaries, I would not allow myself to be influenced by local or sectional feeling. I am not, I need hardly say to you an untired man in respect to my disposition or ability to disregard any feeling of that character in the discharge of official duties. You, as well as all others, have therefore at least some grounds on which to form an opinion as to the probable fidelity with which these assurances would be observed.

I shall add a few words on another aspect of the question and then dismiss the subject. Mexico may carry her persistence in refusing to acknowledge the independence of Texas, and in destructive but fruitless efforts to reconquer that State, so far as to produce, in connection with other circumstances, a decided conviction on the part of a majority of the people of the United States, that the permanent welfare if not absolute safety of all, make it necessary that the proposed annexation should be effected; be the consequences what they may. The question may be asked, what under such circumstances, would be the use you would make of the executive power, if entrusted to your hands? Would it be wielded to defeat or to carry into effect the ascertained wishes of our people? My reply to such a supposition is that I can conceive of no public question, in respect to which it is more eminently proper that the opinions and wishes of the people of the different States should be consulted, and being ascertained, treated with greater respect than those which relate either to the admission of a new member into the confederacy, or the acquisition of additional territory, with a view to such a result; and that, if any application for annexation, under such circumstances, were made to me, I would feel it to be my duty to submit the same to Congress for a public expression of their opinion as well upon the propriety of annexation, as in regard to the terms upon which it should take place. If after the whole subject had been brought before the country, and fully discussed, as it now will be, the Senate and House of Representatives, a large portion of the former and the whole of the latter having been chosen by the people, after the question of annexation had been brought before the country for its mature consideration, should express an opinion in favor of annexation, I should hold it to be my farther duty to employ the executive power to carry into full and fair effect the wishes of a majority of the people of the existing States, thus constitutionally and solemnly expressed.

There may, notwithstanding, be those of both sides of this great question, who are unwilling to confer their suffrages on one who is not prepared to give them specific pledges in regard to the course he would, if elected, pursue in respect to the various aspects in which this matter may hereafter be presented. To all such I have only to say—and I do so with the greatest sincerity—that I have not the slightest disposition to question their right so to regulate their conduct, and will be the last to complain of its exercise.

If there be any one who they believe can be more safely intrusted with their interest in this or any other of the great questions of public policy which are likely to arise in the administration of the government, or whose assurance as to his future course are more satisfactory to them, they will, without doubt, be well warranted in giving him the preference; and they may be assured that no one will more cheerfully acquiesce in a decision, made from such motives, than myself. I have expressed a willingness to discharge, to the best of my abilities, the responsible duties of the high office in question, should the democracy of the United States be able and willing to re-elect me to the same. But I can take no steps to obtain it by which my ability to discharge its duties impartially and usefully to every portion of our common country would be impaired; nor can I, in any extremity, be induced to cast aside the motives of my past life, by changes or concealments of opinions maturely formed upon a great national question, for the unworthy purpose of increasing my chances for political promotion.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your friend and obedient servant,
M. VAN BUREN.

Hon. W. H. HAMMETT.

SPLITTING THE DIFFERENCE.—A nice young gentleman, not a thousand miles from here, (says the Sandersville Telescope) after a long and assiduous courtship, found himself, one bright evening, the betrothed of a pretty girl, the very pink of modesty. One night he was about to take his departure, and after lingering about the door for some time, in a fidget of anxiety, declared and protested to Miss Nancy, that he couldn't and wouldn't leave until she permitted him to kiss her. Of course Miss Nancy blushed beautifully red, and protested in turn that she could not do that. She never had done such a thing, and never would until she was married—so now he had it.

The altercation and debate became deep and exciting, until the betrothed bluffed outright and declared if he couldn't kiss her he wouldn't leave her, and was marching off. She watched him to the gate, and saw "the fat was in the fire," unless something was done.

"Come back then!" she said, coaxingly, "I'll split the difference with you—you may squeeze my hand!"

QUICKEN THE BETTER.—A gentleman was one day composing music for a lady to whom he had paid his addresses. "Pray, Miss D." said he, "what time do you prefer?" "Oh!" she replied, carelessly, "any time will do—let the quicker the better." The company smiled at the rejoinder, and the gentleman took her at her word.

of the laws, with the execution of which he was charged. He no doubt sincerely believed that the incorporation of Texas into the federal Union would be alike disadvantageous to her, to Mexico, and to the United States; and was ever ready to adopt all proper measures for the accomplishment of that object. But they knew very little of General Jackson's true character, who can for a moment permit themselves to believe him capable of doing, countenancing, or advising, a single act which he believed, or had even reason to apprehend, would violate the plighted faith of his country, or infringe upon the duty which it owes to the great family of nations. To prevent our people from going to Texas, and embarking in the war, was an impossibility which neither he nor any other chief magistrate could have accomplished. If they went there without military organization, or armaments, and chose to place themselves beyond the protection of this government, we had no right to control their actions; nor do other governments exercise any such right in similar cases. For the suppression of military enterprises, organized and armed here against a nation with which we are at peace, the provisions of our laws are ample. But of the difficulties of enforcing them with a frontier and seaboard like those which open our communication with Texas, no sensible and well informed mind can be ignorant.

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It is also apprehended by many, that the British colony or dependency, I find it difficult to credit the existence of such infatuation on the part of any European Power: I cannot bring myself to believe that European government which has not already made up its mind to provoke a war with this country, will ever attempt to colonize Texas either in form or in substance. If there be any such power, the considerations to which I have adverted, would soon lose most of their importance: for the opportunities would not then be slow in presenting themselves for the conquest of whatever territory might, in that event, be deemed necessary to our security, in legitimate self-defence. Commercial favors Texas has to the same extent as other independent power the right to dispose of as she thinks proper; only subject to the penalties which are certain, sooner or later, to follow in the wake of national injustice. But European colonization of Texas is another and a very different matter—a matter in respect to the ultimate consequences of which no European nation can possibly deceive either herself or us. I have no access to the sources of true information in respect to the degree of credit which may be due to these rumors: but our government ought, without doubt, to exercise a most jealous vigilance against the extension of British influence, or dominion of any kind, or from any quarter, either in Texas, or in any of the portions of the continent bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. If the time ever comes when the question resolves itself into whether Texas shall become a British dependency or colony, or a constitutional portion of this Union the great principle of self-defence, applicable as well to nations as to individuals, would without doubt, produce as great a unanimity amongst us in favor of the latter alternative, as can ever be expected on any great question of foreign or domestic policy.

Having now replied, in the fullest and frankest manner, to both the questions which you have propounded to me, I might here close this letter; but being sincerely anxious to put you, and others occupying the same position in possession of my views and opinions upon the whole subject as far as they can with propriety be now formed and expressed, I will go a few steps farther.

Occasions do sometimes present themselves in the administration of public affairs, when the decision of great questions can be safely anticipated by those whose subsequent duty it may become to pass upon them; but to justify such a course, those questions must be such as are unavoidably dependent upon circumstances and considerations of fixed and settled character. I have not been able to regard this as being, in all its aspects, a case of that description. It is a matter affecting our foreign relations, in respect to which every enlightened nation makes it a rule to avoid, as far as practicable, public announcements of its proceedings and intentions beyond what is deemed necessary either to justify its past course, or to make others sensible of its determination to resist aggression, whether present or prospective. As the action of the executive upon all questions that affect our relations with other countries, must be more or less influenced by their conduct towards us, it is in general, desirable that his future course should not be embarrassed by assurances given at a period when no safe opinion could be formed of what that conduct would be. In respect even to motives of a domestic character, it could scarcely be deemed consistent with that prudence and calm discretion which, in public as well as private affairs, is of such inestimable value, to bind ourselves in advance in respect to the particular line of conduct we will hereafter adopt in a case of such magnitude as the present. When the period of definitive action shall have arrived, the considerations now taken into view may have lost the weight they at present possess in the estimation of the public; and others, now regarded as of any value, may, in the mean time, arise to effect materially, if not to change, the whole aspect of the subject. The present condition of the relations between Mexico and Texas may soon be so far changed, as to weaken, and perhaps to obviate entirely the objections against the immediate annexation of the latter to the United States, which I have here set forth and to place the question on different grounds. Should such a state of things arise, and I be found in charge of the responsible duties of President, you may be assured that I would meet the question, if then presented to me, with a sincere desire to promote the result which I believed to be calculated to advance the permanent welfare of the whole country. In the dis-

ALL THE WORLD IS A FARM.

The world is a farm, parcel'd out here and there,
Into lots of ten thousand dimensions;
All under the superintendence and care
Of one of undoubted intentions.

Honest men are the wheat, while the rogues are the
tares—
(So divine say the parable teaches.)
And thistles are found in contentions and cares,
Whose touch to the nerve often reaches.

Deceit is a serpent coiled in our way,
And slanders a scorpion that stings us;
Intemperance a weevil that gnaws night and day,
And at last into poverty brings us.

The ladies are roses—so amateurs say—
(May purity save them from scandal.)
But once in a while we meet one in our way,
Whose tongue has a touch of the rattle.

And friendships and flows that grow wild on the lawn,
Away from all tumult and uproar,
And when we behold them reaped and torn,
'Tis a trespass me-thinks by the door.

The rich are the "bay trees" that thrive for a spell,
And each plant in their shade is half wither'd;
'Till they by the axe of misfortune are fell,
And their branches lie prostrate and shiver'd.

In the spring time of youth, every leaf, bud and blade,
Gathers freshness each hour that passes;
But a time comes at last when they wither and fade,
As grass that lies gather'd in masses.

Could we from the top of that "high mountain" gaze,
Whence all kingdoms of earth were discover'd;
What a harvest we'd see ready for the grave,
And which thither must surely be gather'd.

The wild savage horde and the city's full throng,
The scythe of old time would be sweeping;
And all at his touch would be carried along
To that home where like harvests are keeping.

"HE HAD NO TRADE."

Mr. Graham, in the course of his arguments to the jury in the cases of Van Cott vs. Sharp, before the Circuit Court in New York, said of Sharp, "He had no trade; he was rioting in idleness; contracting habits of corrupt and depraved tendency, such as ever attend on idleness." We learn from the same gentleman, that Sharp had a fortune in expectancy; and this perhaps, was the reason why "he had no trade;" as most young men under such circumstances would scorn to be usefully occupied in learning a trade which on a reverse of fortune, would enable them to earn an honest living. It is the great error of the times to despise labor; and hence so many young men are found rioting in idleness, and contracting habits which finally make them dissipated outcasts in society. It is the Divine injunction that "man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow;" the parents therefore, who raise a son of idleness, not only violate this sacred command, but prepare him for dishonor and crime. A false idea of respectability causes the destruction of many a youth, who, but for the ridiculous notion that a trade is disreputable, might become an useful member of society. Who is more respectable than the young man, who by industry and prudence, elevates himself to the world? Such a man can stand erect before his fellows, and despise the sneers of the proud and foolish, at his occupation. Nay more; he can walk the streets without the apprehension of being arrested for debts contracted in idleness and dissipation.—Sharpe had no trade, and is now before a court of justice, charged with the commission of a vile and dishonorable act. He who has no trade of calling to occupy his attention, seldom has any religious or moral principles, and is therefore prepared to become a criminal. We look upon idleness as an offence to God and man, for it leads to the violation of both divine and human law.

Mr. Graham asks, "are not the young men of the present day too well, too deeply acquainted with the world; and that they fancy themselves too wise to require parental guidance or instruction. Most young men in these days, both male and female, are out of leading strings long before they are out of their teens; and are prepared to deliver their opinions on all subjects, with the "most oracular wisdom." They spurn the admonition of the experienced; dictate to the aged as "those having authority." But all this arises from the mismanagement of parents, who think their sons too respectable to learn a trade, and their daughters too delicate and refined to acquire a knowledge of house-work. Whilst this erroneous system of education continues, the world will not be deficient in drunken worthless, husbands, nor in idle, extravagant and ignorant wives. Let it then be "reformed altogether," so that both men and women may become what they were designed to be by their Creator, the moral image of the Deity.

RICH AND POOR.—How strange that mankind will tug and strive to become rich, when they must know that none are so happy and enjoy more of life than the middling classes. Care, anxiety, fear, and a thousand evils follow close at the train of wealth. It is difficult for men of property to tell who are their friends and who are their enemies. Every one bows and smiles to them, who receives a bow and a smile in return. The poor stand ready to do them a favor as soon as their wish is expressed and whenever they are guilty of misdemeanors, their acts are passed over as the common weakness of human nature. With all the advantages of the rich, we are fully of the opinion that it is better to be in moderate circumstances. Certainly if we look for real enjoyment the latter state is far preferable. With good and wholesome food—a commodious house—a pleasant family and a small circle of friends is all that man should desire. It is certain he can enjoy no more with millions at his command.

It is generally the case that the children of the rice turn out useless members of society, it not perfect pests to the community.—Having been gratified while young with all their hearts could desire, when they become older they run into various excesses, prejudicial to their best

interests and demoralizing in the extreme—so that if you trace out the history of rogues, who have been punished by our just laws, you will find that a large portion of them were born in affluence and gratified with all their hearts could desire. The sons of the rich will seldom learn useful trades, or work on farms—they wish to live a lazy, profligate sort of life, dreaming that the wealth of their parents will support them in their extravagance and folly. When their fathers die, the division of a few hundred dollars among ten or a dozen children, does not amount to a fortune for each one—and with irregular and loose habits, the property is soon squandered, and the poor spendthrift is obliged to resort to some means to keep him from starving. Not used to work, the first unholy suggestion is seized and carried into effect, and he is finally ruined.

No so the children of the poor. They are brought up to earn their own livelihood, and come what may, with good trades and industrious habits, they are always sure of a support.

A TOM THUMB.—A little fellow whose age we do not know, but who has attained his full growth, is now exhibiting in London. He is twenty-five inches high and weighs fifteen pounds. He belongs to one of the Middle or Southern States, and attracted great attention when he was exhibited in New York. His guardian has taken him to England, and from the following extract from an English paper it appears he meets with great favor from high quarters:

On Friday, Mr P. T. Barnum, the American gentleman who acts as guardian to Tom Thumb, received the commands of Queen Victoria to attend at Buckingham Palace with his protegee. They were received in the picture gallery, a magnificent apartment, filled with some of the choicest productions of ancient and modern art. The Queen, Prince Albert and the Duchess of Kent, and a large party of nobility, were standing at the further end of the room, when the doors were thrown open and the "General" entered, followed by his guardian and the Lord in Waiting. The moment the tiny man of fifteen pounds weight, walking erect and unembarrassed, handsome as Cupid and graceful as Apollo, was perceived toddling along, there was a general titter in the Royal circle, which broke into a general burst of laughter when the "General" in his easy, familiar style, exclaimed, firmly, but respectfully, "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen."

The Queen then took him by the hand, led him about the gallery, and asked him many questions. Every answer elicited a smile from her Majesty: The "General" told her that he liked the Picture Gallery "first rate;" that it was very fine, and that he came over on purpose to see her Majesty. During this dialogue the Queen's face was suffused with laughter. She then sent the Lord in Waiting for some bon-bons, which she gave him with her own hands. The "General" then proceeded to display his varied acquisitions before the Royal circle—treating them to this personation of Napoleon, the statues, and the ears of England's Queen, on whose empire the sun never sets, heard for the first time, the genuine specimen of nigger lyrics, "Miss Lucy Long," sung by this petit vocalist! The effect was ludicrous in the high place. Prince Albert was also delighted with the "General" and having examined his legs, waist and head, expressed himself pleased with his strong, and well knit frame. The "General" and guardian, Mr. Barnum, after remaining an hour and a quarter in the Royal presence withdrew, having received a handsome douceur from the Lord in Waiting.

I. O. OF RECHABITES.

An association of this Order has been instituted in this city, under the appellation of "NAUMKEAG TENT; No. 4."—the officers of which were fully installed on the evening of the 2d inst. The formation of the Order of Rechabites in the U. States was commenced somewhat less than two years ago, and already, we learn, thirty-nine Associations of Tents have been established in various parts of the country. The name of the Order is taken from an ancient class of people called Rechabites, which are alluded to in the writings of Jeremiah the Prophet. A distinctive characteristic of the ancient Rechabites was abstinence from strong drinks.

"We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying: ye shall drink no wine, neither we nor your sons forever."—Jer. xxxv. 6.

Total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors is an imperative requirement of the Order under notice. Rechabitism also presents many of the features of the most humane and philanthropic character. Its aims are to aid the most holy cause of temperance—to improve the morals of society—to promote kind feelings and brotherly love—to relieve the distressed—and to administer to the wants of the afflicted. In other words, the great purpose of the Order is to mitigate the weighty evils incident to our present defective social condition, and which only can be reached by means of association, on the broadest principles of human brotherhood.

The Constitution of the I. O. of R. is applicable to the government of all the Tents throughout the United States. No genuine friend of mankind can peruse it without being favorably impressed in regard to the purposes of the Order. It will be seen that it recognizes no exclusive and narrow policy, graduated by geographical limits, but sanctions the extension of the hand of brotherly love and friendship to any virtuous and deserving member of the great human family. May true-hearted Rechabites increase and multiply in this region, and abundant success attend the "Naumkeag Tent."—
Olive Branch.

THAT DAM ROARING.

A young buck went to see the daughter of a Presbyterian Elder, lately, whose house was near a mill dam. Being the spring time of the year, the waters made considerable of a roar, as they tumbled over the dam. The modest young gentleman tapped lightly at the door at first, and received no answer. He tapped again; still no answer. Again and again he repeated his knock, but still he was unheard. Mustering courage, he proceeded to inflict some severe thumps upon the door which brought the old gentleman out. "I suppose," said the youngster, who had by this time become slightly savage,—"you could not hear me knock for the dam roaring?"

"The dam roaring! What do you mean, sir! How dare you speak in that way?" said the Elder somewhat angered at hearing the young man swear in his presence.

"I meant to say, sir, that I suppose you could not hear me knock on account of that dam roaring."

"Damn roaring, again! You young scoundrel! Have you the impudence to insult me with a repetition of these words? Begone, sir!"

"My dear sir," quoth the now bewildered youth, "I intended to say that I presumed I could not be heard on account of the dam roaring," laying particular emphasis on the last two words.

"Insult on insult," shouted the infuriated man, and he rushed at the poor fellow with the evident intention of demolishing him, but was restrained by the voice of his daughter, exclaiming, "Papa! I suppose the young man intended to say that he could not be heard on account of the roaring of the dam!"

"Oh, I beg your pardon, sir, walk in, really, I—ah well I declare! The dam roaring! Capital! come in, come in, this is really too rich!"

It is needless to add that the young gentleman went in, and in the excellent society of the young lady aforesaid, he soon forgot the dam roaring. [Pittsburg Sun.]

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, MAY 21, 1844.

"The great popular party is already rallied almost en masse around the banner which is leading the party to its final triumph. The few that still lag will soon be rallied under its ample folds. On that banner is inscribed: FREE TRADE; LOW DUTIES; SEPARATION FROM ROME; ECONOMY; NON-INTERFERENCE; AND STRICT OBEYANCE TO THE CONSTITUTION. Victory in such a cause will be great and glorious; and if the principles be faithfully and firmly adhered to, after it is achieved, much will be redound to the honor of those by whom it will have been won; and long will it perpetuate the liberty and prosperity of the country."—*Calcutta.*

WHIG CANDIDATES IN 1840 AND 1844.

The great objects of the Whigs in '40 was to secure Candidates for the Presidency and the Vice Presidency whose opinions were diverse and even opposite, so as to unite the Whigs proper and what were called Conservatives, as well as the disaffected of all classes. In accordance with this policy, they nominated a Whig for the Presidency whose opinions on national concerns were but little known; and for the Vice Presidency, a conservative,—both of whom the leaders of the Whig party required to be silent, whenever interrogated in reference to their political faith.

This mongrel nomination was only equalled by the disgraceful means put in force to effect the election. The depravity of '40 will long be remembered by this country. It forms an era of wickedness to which the Historian, in after years, will always refer with mortification and sorrow. A quarter of a century hence, the Historian will say the elections in the Republic of U. S., up to 1840, were always conducted on the principles of reason, morality and humanity. It is, however, but truth to say that at that time all these principles were violated—all these safeguards of free institutions were laid prostrate and trampled upon. Religion was sacrificed—Law outraged and Reason de-throned. By the influence of corrupt, designing, restless and ambitious men, desirous of gaining power and emolument, inducements were held out which had a direct tendency to pervert the morals and excite the baser passions of the people. By such appeals, drunkenness, revelry, and idleness with their host of minor evils were encouraged and made respectable; while the philanthropist and christian were brought to mourn over the disastrous consequences of such conduct.

The correct Historian cannot say less than we have here said in relation to the conduct of the Whig party in '40. He could say much more and yet tell the truth.

A reaction, however, has to some extent been brought about. The grand object of the Whig party at the present time is a U. S. Bank. This is the great distinguishing feature of Whig politics. Although the country is now prospering without one, and has prospered heretofore, yet Henry Clay steps forward and says we must have one. His obsequious followers, in vast numbers having committed themselves on this subject, and being anxious to obtain the excellencies derivable from such a measure, have come to the conclusion that they cannot reach their object indirectly, as they expected to do through Clay's influence on the course of Harrison, but must and will, willing or unwilling, reach it through Clay himself. This is a bitter pill, not only for the country in general, but for the Whig party in particular. But it must be swallowed, Duelist, Gambler, Slaveholder, Bargainer, Turn-coat, and all. This being unpalatable, requires some condiment with it in order that it may go down and relish. So Frelinghuysen—a man little distinguished in politics, but of eminent piety and learning—is placed side by side on the same ticket with the Duelist and Gambler. Such, then, are the obvious and apparent motives which operated in the selection of candidates by the Whigs in '40 and '44. The end to be attained in both cases was votes. In 1840, they secured the election by having on their ticket all sorts of principles, but by the interposition of the governing power of the United States, their ultimate ends were defeated. In the present campaign, having witnessed the depreciation of morals consequent on the origines of '40, and fearing the re-action which must soon take place on this subject, they have nominated a good moral man to grace their ticket and make it respectable. In this manner the goodness and purity of Mr. Frelinghuysen is to reflect upon Mr. Clay, and so improve his moral and political de-

formities, as to gain the affections and support of the people. But can this reflected light be of any avail to the Whig party? We shall see.

NEW ENGLAND DEMOCRAT, EXTRA. Messrs. Joselyn and Gourgas—the enterprising and able Editors of the "New England Democrat" have published a Prospectus for an "Extra" from their office which will be afforded for the low price of 50 cents per copy. The first number will contain the proceedings of the Democratic National Convention and will continue during the Presidential Canvass, being about six months. A good opportunity is here afforded for procuring correct information in relation to the principles and progress of the Democratic cause.

The Democratic Baltimore Convention assembled on Monday next.

THE GREAT INTRIGUE.

In the Globe of May 3d, there appeared a card, signed by eleven members of Congress from Ohio, stating that a great movement was in operation at Washington to displace Mr. Van Buren. The Globe followed up these charges and similar ones and accused the Democrats in Congress, of various wicked motives and actions. For this course, the Globe has received a severe rebuke from the Boston Post, Richmond Enquirer and various other Democratic papers. And, in addition to this, the whole Delegation in Congress from Indiana and South Carolina stop fourth and deny any participation in or knowledge of such a movement. The Globe and the Ohio Delegation who first preferred these charges receive but little sympathy from the Democratic Party for its recent course.

THE MISSISSIPPI DELEGATES.

The Delegates to the Baltimore convention from Mississippi, seven in number, have published a letter in the Globe under their own signatures, stating that they were selected and instructed to vote for Mr. Van Buren, at the Democratic National Convention. They further state that at the Convention appointing them Delegates, a Resolution was passed in favor of the immediate annexation of Texas. In conclusion, they say that as the Annexation of Texas is an important measure with that State, they shall act and vote accordingly in the National Convention.

Mr. G. J. Ingersoll of Pa. a personal and bosom friend of Mr. Van Buren and a strong man in the State, has written a letter in answer to some citizens of Maryland, in which he expresses doubts, as to the expediency of selecting Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency.

KANSAS CITY RIOTS.—A week ago last Sabbath it is reported that 2500 soldiers were on duty in the city and County of Philadelphia.

In four different Counties in Virginia, the Democrats have met and revoked the instructions given to their Delegates chosen to attend the Baltimore Convention.

Commodore Stewart has written another letter in favor of immediate annexation.

Whiggery is enjoying itself highly at the divisions in the democratic Party. They will laugh at the other corner, shortly. A diversity of opinion is not a quarrel.

The Show.—The following account of the whig assembly at Baltimore, is taken from the *National Intelligencer*:

Clay badges hang conspicuously at all button holes; those "having authority" are seen pushing on with grave and important looks, like officers before an engagement. Clay portraits, Clay banners, Clay ribbons, Clay songs, Clay quick-steps, Clay marches, Clay caricatures, meet the eye in all directions. Do you enter a bookstore, the first object is a "Life of Henry Clay;" nay, two or three lives; (would he had so many!) do you stop at a shop window, the eye is caught at once by rows of Clay medals and streamers of Clay ribbons with all manner of devices. Coons, perched on balls of public opinion rolling over loxes; and other foxes "raising the old Harry," garnish the music stores and hat emporiums, which exhibit "Clay hats," as the tailors' shop windows do "Ashland coats." At the corner stands a man with a bunch of hooked canes, real "knock-down-and-drag-out," labelled "Clay sticks." Out of a window pokes a long pole with a cotton curtain, having on it in staring letters, "New York delegation," or "Ohio delegation." At the wharf lies an ark adorned with streamers that has made her way from the interior of New York. In boxes are live coons from Missouri, and walking about large as life are two-legged western in coons fringed rifle shirts. Oh, the rushing the driving, the noise, the excitement! To see and hear danfeel it all is glory enough for one day.

TO SHAKE OR NOT TO SHAKE?—A correspondent of the Medical Journal is out in favor of wearing the beard. He says:—

"The bible and nature are certainly on the side of beards, however much effeminacy may proscribe them. Christ is never seen in a portrait with a beardless chin. A scrap of history particularizes his hair and his beard. Tertullian, an early Christian father, declares the shaving of the beard to be 'blasphemy against the face.'"

The correspondent gives, among others, the following extract from "Walker on Beauty":

"The habit of wearing the beard is a manly and noble one. Nature made it distinctive of the male and female; and its abandonment has commonly accompanied not only by periods of general effeminacy, but even by the decline and fall of States. They were bearded Romans who conquered the beardless Greeks; they were bearded Goths who vanquished the then beardless Romans; and they are bearded Tartars who now promise once more to inundate the regions occupied by the shaven and effeminate people of western Europe. Those, assuredly, blunder, who ridicule the wearing of the beard."

The Southern Whigs kicking against Clay.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Post writes, that the southern whig members of Congress held a sort of caucus on the evening of the 2d inst. and resolved after the southern fashion "that they would be burnt if they would support Mr. Clay, or any body else, who would write such a letter as his against Texas."

From the New York Plebeian.

THE GLOBE AND RICHMOND ENQUIRER.—We regret to see that these two influential organs of the Democratic party should have found it necessary to impugn each others motives, especially at a time when the utmost harmony should provide the ranks of our party. It cannot be doubted but that much diversity of opinion exists as to the candidate to be nominated by the Baltimore Convention. New elements of party strife have sprung up since the election of the Delegates who are entrusted with the high power to designate the nominee of the Convention. But one feeling should actuate the Democracy of the Union, which should be a determination to abide the decision of the Convention. We may have our individual preferences, but we do not insist that the candidate we prefer is the only one that will receive our support. We say to the Convention, give us the strongest man; our object is to defeat Federalism. Is there any thing wrong in this? It is principles we are contending for. If public sentiment demands any other candidate than Mr. Van Buren, let public sentiment be gratified. But if the nomination of Mr. Van Buren is most like to lead the Democratic party to victory, give us Mr. Van Buren. And we are pleased to see that the friends of Mr. Van Buren—those who prefer his election to any other man, are willing to sacrifice their preference, if such a course would enhance the prospect of a victory over our opponents. It is certainly not anti-Democratic, nor censurable in any one, that he should enjoy his preference until the nomination is made, when every true Democrat will unite to crush Federalism.

We understand the *Richmond Enquirer* to entertain similar views, in relation to the importance of a calm and temperate discussion, with a view to harmonize all conflicting views and opinions preparatory to the nomination. Mr. Ritchie has ever been a zealous and able supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and a warm and ardent advocate of the claims of Mr. Van Buren; and if nominated his ardor and zeal will suffer no abatement. But no man is a better judge of public sentiment, especially in the South, than Mr. Ritchie, and when the Globe accuses him of having been duped by the schemes and intrigues of a few men who prefer some other candidate than Mr. Van Buren for President, we think he shows a want of courtesy and respect for the high character in which Mr. Ritchie is held by the democratic party. We think the Globe is too vindictive in its attacks upon all those who have the independence to differ from him. We see no propriety in the recent attacks of Mr. Blair upon Mr. Calhoun and others, whose only desire is to secure the ascendancy of our principles. We think if the Globe would imbibed the spirit that actuates Mr. Ritchie, indicated in the following extract from the *Enquirer*, he would serve the Democracy much more effectually:

"The strength of the Whigs is in their indissoluble union. What have we seen within the last week? Some 15,000 Whigs meeting together at Baltimore to unite their party upon one man with hooks of steel. Amid the shameful spectacle of their Coonish beastiality and their senseless emblems, we have witnessed no wrangling, jarring, discord, or serious division among them. 'The union of the Whigs for the sake of the Union'—or rather, their idolatrous devotion to H. Clay—have been the motive and object which they have carried out. But whilst they are arming shoulder to shoulder, with united forces and unscrupulous man worship in favor of their idol, and immediately too after an apparently temporary defeat of our party in Virginia, not indeed an actual, much less a permanent defeat it is true, but a loss which has brought a temporary cloud over the feelings of some of our party, what is the situation of our party at Washington. The members of Congress are wrangling, charged with caballing for some Presidential candidate our party seemingly tearing itself to pieces, the Spectator rebuking Mr. V. Buren, and the Globe rebuking Mr. Calhoun—until 'confusion has become worse confounded.' We must terminate these feuds at once—or else how is it possible (that a scattered mob, such as our party will be, can encounter the best drilled and the strongest disciplined party in the world? Let us communicate to each other facts which are important to guide our choice and govern our decisions.—Let us compare notes with each other fully and freely, in a conciliatory spirit, previous to the Convention—but when it meets, let us discuss every question in good feeling decided in good temper—and act with the energy, which becomes a great party."

Old Ironsides.—This ancient frigate, we mean the *Constitution*, is now in our harbor. She has escaped more dangers, encountered more storms and gained more victories than any ship in any navy besides our own. When commanded by Hull she took the Guerriere; when sailed by Bainbridge she captured the Java; and when commanded by Stewart she took the Cyano and Levant. She is just as good as new; and will never be surrendered to any force whatever. She is invincible. She is commanded by Captain Percival—N. Y. Plebeian.

VIRGINIA ELECTION.—The *Richmond Enquirer*, Whig, and Compiler, agree in representing the character of the new Legislature thus:—Senate—Eleven Whigs, twenty-one Democrats. House—Seventy-three Whigs, including one doubtful; sixty-one Democrats, including one contested seat. This gives a Whig majority of two on joint ballot.

GOOD ADVICE.—A modern author of some celebrity, says:

"If thou canst refrain from unnecessary conversation and idle visits, and suppress the desire of 'hearing and telling some new thing,' thou wilt find not only abundant leisure, but convenient opportunity for useful meditation."

BLACK TARIFF.—Well may it be called so.—Stripe shirting, used by the poor, pays a tax of 65 per cent. *Gold and cambricks*, used by the rich, pay but 33 per cent. "Take care of the rich and the rich will take care of the poor," says Daniel Webster, and isn't he a Whig statesman?

11

He that shows his passion, tells his enemy
where to hit him.

CUMBERLAND, & OXFORD

Administrators' & Guardians'

Jacksonville, C. Howe.
Porter, E. Blore, Jr.
Sweden, B. Nevers.

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